

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SCUL, TW, PEPR

SUBJECT: U.S. CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

REF: TAIPEI 0747

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED YOUR HELPFUL ASSESSMENT OF OUR CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC ACTIONS ARE CALLED FOR AT THIS TIME, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DESCRIBE OUR THOUGHTS ON HOW WE MIGHT DEAL WITH EACH OF THESE ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF NORMALIZATION.

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2. U.S. EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (USEF/C). WE AGREE THAT USEF/C AS PRESENTLY ORGANIZED WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE AFTER NORMALIZATION. PROBABLY WE WILL WANT TO HAVE A PRIVATE CULTURAL EXCHANGE ORGANIZATION STEP IN IN PLACE OF USEF/C AFTER NORMALIZATION AS THE FOCAL POINT AND VEHICLE FOR A VARIETY OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FORESEE

NOW EXACTLY WHAT PROGRAMS FROM THE PRESENT PANOPLY (CULTURAL EXCHANGES, FULBRIGHT, COUNSELLING, CENTER OPERATION, INTERNATIONAL VISITORS ETC.) WE MIGHT WANT TO SEE CONTINUED, WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE LODGED IN ONE OR MORE THAN ONE ORGANIZATION AND HOW THE USG WILL RELATE TO IT OR

THEM. SIMILARLY, WE CANNOT DETERMINE NOW WHETHER THE PRIVATE ORGANIZATION(S) SHOULD BE BINATIONAL OR SOLELY AMERICAN. INDEED, NEEDS FELT IN THE COMMUNITY, RATHER THAN A PRIORI ANALYSIS OF WHAT THOSE NEEDS SHOULD BE, MIGHT BEST GOVERN THE SITUATION.

3. NEVERTHELESS, ANTICIPATING THE DESIRABILITY OF SOME PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE TO INCREASE THE INVOLVEMENT OF PRIVATE U.S. GROUPS IN USEF/C NOW AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGING THEIR INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN A PRIVATE SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION AFTER NORMALIZATION.

4. A NUMBER OF APPROACHES MIGHT BE CONSIDERED: WE MIGHT CHOOSE THE TWO PRIVATE U.S. MEMBERS OF THE USEF/C BOARD ON THE BASIS OF THE POTENTIAL ROLE WHICH THEIR ORGANIZATIONS COULD HAVE IN SUPPORTING A POST NORMALIZATION EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION. FOR INSTANCE, THE PRACTICE OF APPOINTING A BUSINESSMAN TO THE BOARD MIGHT BE INSTITUTIONALIZED AS AN "AMERICAN CHAMBER SEAT"

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ON THE BOARD, GIVING THE CHAMBER RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECOMMENDING NOMINEES. AS NO MORE THAN TWO PRIVATE U.S. MEMBERS CAN BE ON THE BOARD, BROADER PRIVATE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE CREATION NOW OF A USEF/C LINKED AMERICAN ADVISORY BOARD TO ADVISE THE AMBASSADOR ON USEF/C AND BROADER EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE MATTERS. ANOTHER POSSIBLE APPROACH WOULD BE TO EXPAND USEF/C'S ACTIVITIES INTO ADDITIONAL AREAS OF INTEREST TO PRIVATE AMERICANS BY HAVING USEF/C CONTRACT OUT SPECIFIC PROJECTS FOR WHICH NON-USG FUNDING COULD BE ARRANGED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THE ADVISEABILITY OF STIMULATING GREATER PRIVATE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN USEF/C NOW AND ON THESE AND OTHER APPROACHES FOR DOING SO.

5. RE USIA CULTURAL CENTER, PAO AND DCM HAVE RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS AND CAN BRING MISSION UP TO DATE ON OUR PLANS.

6. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES: WE CONCUR WITH YOUR CONCLUSION THAT SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION SHOULD CONTINUE IN SOME FORM AFTER NORMALIZA-

TION, BOTH BECAUSE OF THEIR VALUE TO THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND THEIR SYMBOLIC AND SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE TO TAIWAN. WE DO NOT SEE ANY NEED TO ALTER, AT THIS TIME, THE USG'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, I.E. THE NSF ROLE, BUT WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE THE SCOPE OF FORM OF NSF'S INVOLVEMENT

ENLARGED. IN THE ABSENCE OF NORMALIZATION, WE WOULD PLAN TO REVIEW THE NSF'S ROLE IN THESE EXCHANGES LATE NEXT YEAR AS THE RENEWAL OF THE NSF-NSC AGREEMENT APPROACHES.

7. ASIA FOUNDATION: WE AGREE THAT THERE IS NO NEED NOW TO PLACE SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON ASIA FOUNDATION PROGRAMS ON TAIWAN, AND BELIEVE THAT ITS CURRENT

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ACTIVITIES COULD PROBABLY CONTINUE AFTER NORMALIZATION. AT THE PRESENT TIME IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO FORESEE WHETHER ASIA FOUNDATION MIGHT PLAY A BROADER ROLE IN POST-NORMALIZATION CULTURAL TIES WITH TAIWAN.

8. EAST-WEST CENTER: WE AGREE THAT THE CENTER SHOULD SEEK TO CONTINUE ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS FROM TAIWAN AFTER NORMALIZATION.

9. BOXER INDEMNITY FUND: WE HAVE CHECKED AND SHARE YOUR CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY USG INVOLVEMENT IN EITHER THE TSING-HUA ENDOWMENT FUND OR THE CHINA FOUNDATION, INC.

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